

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION I  
One Congress Street, Suite 1100 (CWQ), Boston, MA 02114-2023

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/1/2000

SUBJ: Massachusetts Water Quality Standards

FROM: Bill Beckwith  
WQS Coordinator

TO: Vern Lang, USFWS  
Chris Mantzaris, NMFS  
Thomas Gardner, EPA SASD

Enclosed is a copy of MA WQS (314 CMR 4.00-4.06) with revisions that were adopted February 23, 1996 and submitted to EPA on May 1, 1996. Using these WQS as a starting point, EPA Region 1 is in the process of identifying issues that MA should consider in its next triennial review. The Region intends to have comments ready for transmittal to MADEP by March 15, 2000. It is expected that MA will promptly initiate its triennial review following receipt of those comments.

In addition to 314 CMR 4.00-4.06, enclosed are numerous policy/guidance documents that MA uses to implement its WQS. The Region's review will be focused on 314 CMR 4.00-4.06, as noted above, and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy of February 11, 1993. We do not intend to address the other policy/guidance documents during this triennial review unless the State submits revisions to them or it becomes necessary as a result of issues raised on the regulation.

Please notify me if you have concerns with the WQS regulation or the Antidegradation Implementation Policy, be it related to endangered and threatened species or protection of aquatic resources in general. If you do have significant concerns with the other policy/guidance documents, notify me of that as well and we can discuss how and when to best address the issues. Comments by March 15, 2000 are preferred, however, recognizing the relatively short notice, as soon as possible following that date will be appreciated. We will keep you informed of the WQS review/revision process as it proceeds and look forward to your participation. I can be reached at "Beckwith.William@epa.gov" or 617/918-1544. Thank you.